

REMARKS

In this Response, Applicants amend the specification to update references to related applications, cancel claims 1-66, and add new claims 67-79. Cancellations of and amendments to the claims are being made solely to expedite prosecution of the instant application and should not be construed as acquiescence to the rejections. Applicants reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the instant or a subsequent application. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 67-79 are pending in the present application.

Telephone Conversation with Examiner

Applicants' Attorney acknowledges with appreciation a telephone conversation with the Examiner on December 9, 2003. During the conversation, the Examiner noted that he could not schedule a timely telephone interview to discuss the claimed subject matter due to the great delay involved in obtaining the official file wrapper. In lieu of scheduling a timely telephone interview prior to the filing of this Response, the Examiner offered to contact the Applicants' Attorney to discuss the claimed subject matter prior to issuing a further Office Action.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants amend page 1 of the specification to update references to related co-pending applications.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants note that the previously presented claims did not include a claim 37. Previously presented claims 38-67 should, therefore, have been numbered as claims 37-66.

Applicants cancel all of the previously presented claims, i.e., all of previously presented claims 1-66, without prejudice.

Office Action ¶ 1

The Examiner noted that the drawings are objected by the draftsman, but Applicants believe that the objections have already been addressed.

Applicants submitted formal drawings in reply to the previous Office Action. The present Office Action did not include an attached PTO-948 form.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' Attorney should corrections to the drawings nonetheless be required in reply to the present Office Action.

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Office Action ¶¶ 3-11

The Examiner rejected claims 3-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 55-66 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gasser.

As provided herein, Applicant cancels previously presented claims 1-66, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejections of these claims.

New Claims

Applicants add new claims 67-79 directed to features of the presented application. New claims 67, 70, 74, and 77 are independent, and new claims 68-69, 71-73, 75-76, and 78-79 depend from new claims 67, 70, 74, and 77. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the application.

Claims 67-69

Applicants' independent claim 67 is directed to a method of providing a resource to a client. Among other things, Applicant's independent claim 67 includes receiving a request from a client for the resource, in which the request includes a membership certificate certifying at least one of group membership and group non-membership as of a time associated with the membership certificate; determining whether a signature associated with the membership certificate is valid; *comparing the time with a recency threshold associated with the resource*; and, *providing the resource to the client only if the time is within the recency threshold* and the signature is valid.

Gasser describes a global naming service (GNS) that includes group certificates generated by group certifying authorities (GCAs). (Gasser col. 9, ll. 45-50.) Each group certificate in the GNS is signed by a GCA and includes the name of a group, the name of a principal associated with the group, and a time period of validity. (Gasser col. 9, ll. 50-68.) The GCA sets the time period of validity "[t]o reduce [the] risk" that an "entity may retain a certificate that has been revoked." (Gasser col. 9, ll. 64-68.) A principal can determine whether an entity is a member of a group by requesting the group certificate of the entity from the GNS, validating the signature on the group certificate, and checking that the time period of the group certificate is not expired. (Gasser col. 8, ll. 3-52.) At most, Gasser teaches comparing a time of

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a group certificate with an arbitrary time period of validity that is determined by a GCA and that is independent of, and not related to, a recency threshold that is associated with a requested resource.

In contrast to Gasser, Applicant's independent claim 67 describes comparing a time of a membership certificate with a recency threshold that is associated with a requested resource. Gasser does not, therefore, teach the feature of Applicants' independent claim 67 directed to *comparing the time of the membership certificate with a recency threshold associated with the resource*. Since Gasser does not compare a time of a membership certificate with a recency threshold associated with a requested resource, Gasser cannot and does not teach the feature of Applicant's independent claim 67 directed to *providing the resource to the client only if the time is within the recency threshold*.

Independent claim 67 is therefore allowable. Since claims 68 and 69 depend from independent claim 67, claims 68 and 69 are also allowable.

Claims 70-79

Applicants' new independent claims 70, 74, and 77 are system, processor-program, and processor-data-signal companion claims to independent method claim 67 and are allowable for the reasons provided with respect to independent claim 67. Since claims 71-73, 75-76, and 78-79 depend from independent claims 70, 74, and 77, claims 71-73, 75-76, and 78-79 are also allowable.

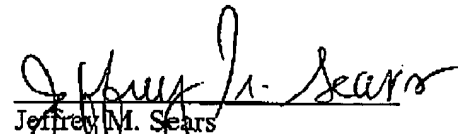
CONCLUSION

Applicants consider the Response herein to be fully responsive to the present Office Action. Based on the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned Attorney if any issues are deemed to remain prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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